

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
Regional Haze Plan

The Air Quality Board proposes to amend R307-110-28 and add a new state implementation plan for Regional Haze. The Plan is required under 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart P, Visibility Protection. The Plan includes the strategies recommended in 1996 by the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission to protect visibility in the 16 national parks and wilderness areas on the Colorado Plateau, including Arches, Bryce, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion National Parks in Utah. These strategies include setting a declining regional cap to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide from sources that emit 100 tons or more per year and a backstop market trading program to be triggered only if the cap is exceeded; adding an enhanced smoke management program to reduce emissions from prescribed fire; continued study of the effects of dust from paved and unpaved roads within and near the parks and wilderness areas; and tracking emissions from point, area, and mobile sources of all pollutants that contribute to visibility impairment. Additionally, the Board is seeking comment on an alternative version of Part F of the SIP, which the Board may choose to substitute if EPA makes effective a change in the federal regional haze rule that was proposed at 68 FR 39842, July 3, 2003. Also available for comment is R307-250, a new rule specifying the operation of the backstop trading program if it is ever triggered; amendments to R307-204 to add the new smoke management requirements; and emission reporting requirements that are found in the new R307-150 for large sources of sulfur dioxide. Also available are documents that may be helpful to commenters, including further information about the enhanced smoke management plan and the annual emission goal, as well as a report to EPA and the public on implementation of other recommendations made by the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission that are not required under the federal regional haze rule. All of the above documents are available at the Division of Air Quality and at <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/SIP/Regionalhazesip/regionalhaze.htm>.

Public hearings will be held at 7:00 PM on October 23 in Room 101 of the Utah DEQ Building at 168 N 1950 West in Salt Lake City, on October 28 in the St. George City Council Chambers at 175 E 200 North in St. George, and on October 30 in the Grand County Council Chambers at 125 E. Center St. in Moab.

The comment period closes at 5 PM on October 31, 2003; comments postmarked on that date will be accepted. Comments may be submitted electronically to janmiller@utah.gov with "Comments on Regional Haze" in the subject line, or may be mailed to:

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ATTN: Regional Haze